

**From:** XXHANSON  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 12/7/01 12:32pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing you as the owner of a small business and a user of Microsoft products. It remains a mystery to me why the competitors of Microsoft continue insisting that they are acting on behalf of the Microsoft users in seeking a more rigorous settlement of the Antitrust Settlement. As one of those users, I would like you to consider my viewpoint as well:

No company has provided a better benefit to small business users than Microsoft has with its Office suite of products. I remember the early days when programs did not interact together and the difficulty in putting together a professional document for a business proposal. Today, thanks to Office, that process is simple. The increase in productivity for my company has been nothing short of incredible. Now we can spend our time doing work instead of trying to get the computer programs to work. I do a lot of consulting work with a variety of companies, including Boeing. With Office, I know my documents are all compatible with their systems. We can work together, revise texts, e-mail back and forth and quickly come up with products that meet the needs of all concerned. Whether the materials consist of word processing, slide presentations, or spreadsheets - they work. My colleagues who are also small business owners agree with this contention. Microsoft products have provided us with the tools we need to be successful.

I find it frustrating that the competitors of Microsoft have put so much time and money into trying to damage a company that has done so much to help consumers at a very reasonable price. It is even more frustrating to know that their power in the marketplace and the money they have behind their vendetta appears to have given them greater access to the justice department than the users who, indeed, make up that marketplace. Like many consumers, I don't want them speaking for me. It would be better for all of us if they would concentrate on their own businesses and making the marketplace more productive vs. trying to use the judicial system to destroy another company.

I believe that the settlement as it now stands addresses the concerns of all involved in a fair way. I also believe that it is time to move on and put the resources - time and money - of our government into more pressing concerns. Now more than ever, it is important to recognize the value of global markets and the companies that do business in those markets. Looking at this case through blinders constructed by the domestic competitors benefits no one - not even them. We need the reasoned judgement of our judicial system to stand behind this settlement.

Thank you for taking time to consider this e-mail. Please approve the settlement as it is and take the steps that will allow pursuing innovation and economic growth. These are difficult times and we need our government to help us move on.

Sincerely,

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